

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-03 CU-04 AID-05 NEA-10 USIA-15

PRS-01 /047 W

-----141754Z 025748 /43

P 141615Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7120

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 0518

FOR AF/P - GAY; ALSO FOR AF/EX, AF/W AND VISITING CDO KLEIN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, OGEN, AGS

SUBJECT: SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM

REF: (A) 76 STATE 277385, (B) STATE 9643

1. DESPITE KEEN AWARENESS OF OUTSTANDING SUCCESS OF EASUM-INSPIRED STATE OVERSEAS SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM, I CONCLUDED AFTER REFLECTING ON TELEGRAMS ANNOUNCING 1977 PROGRAM THAT US MISSION TO MAURITANIA DID NOT RPT NOT HAVE MANPOWER RESOURCES TO PLAN AND MOUNT MEANINGFUL INTERN PROGRAM FOR COMING SUMMER.

2. HOWEVER, GROWING REALIZATION OF ACUTE SUMMER MANPOWER SHORTAGE (CONTINUED SLIPPAGE IN AID TEAM ARRIVALS PLUS PROJECTED STATE TRANSFERS) AND FORTUITOUS ARRIVAL OF LETTER FROM DIRECTOR OF PRINCETON'S WOODROW WILSON SCHOOL (SPIA) GRADUATE INTERN PROGRAM COMBINED TO SUGGEST THAT NEEDS OF MISSION AND NEEDS OF DEPARTMENT AND OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS SUCH AS PRINCETON MIGHT BE JUXTAPOSED AND AN INTERN PROGRAM MIGHT BE DEVISED TO MEET THESE COMBINED NEEDS. I ACCORDINGLY ASKED CDO-MAURITANIANARRLCSV REEXAMINE HIS SUMMER MANPOWER NEEDS; TO REVIEW RESUMES OF FIVE PARTICULARLY TALENTED AND EXPERIENCED (AND FRENCH-LANGUAGE QUALIFIED) MA DEGREE CANDIDATES/PROSPECTIVE INTERNS WHICH SPIA'S JUNIUS BLEIMAN PROVIDED; AND TO DE-UNCLASSIFIED

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TERMINE WHETHER POST/DBHARTMENT/SCHOOL NEEDS COULD BE MET BY INTERN PROGRAM IN NOUAKCHOTT.

3. KLEIN WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE OF ONE OF SPIA STUDENTS WHO IS UNUSUALLY WELL QUALIFIED TO CARRY OUT SPECIFIC PROJECT WHICH WAS TO BE BEGUN THIS MONTH BY AID I.D.I. WHO IS NOW NOT ARRIVING UNTIL

LATE SUMMER AND WHICH REST OF HIS LIMITED STAFF CANNOT ADDRESS. INTERN PROJECT WOULD BE DIRECTLY SUPERVISED BY CDO; END PRODUCT WOULD BE OF SIGNIFICANT VALUE TO ENTIRE US MISSION STAFF AND ITS OPERATIONS. I WOULD PLAN TO TAKE A PERSONAL INTEREST IN PROGRESS OF PROJECT AND END PRODUCT. CDO IS EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPER, WITH WIDE VARIETY OF EXPERIENCE IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN FOUR ECONOMIES, WHERE HE WAS POSTED IN THE PAST, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISE TO THE US MISSION TO THE UN, AS AID LIASON WITH DOD, STATE AND OTHER AGENCIES ON MILITARY AID MATTERS AND RELATED SUBJECTS AND WITH A KEEN UNDERSTANDING OF THE POLICIES OF FOREIGN AID.

4. PROPOSED INTERN PROJECT IS DEVELOPMENT OF A STATISTICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE PROFILE OF NOUAKCHOTT AND MAURITANIA. AT PRESENT THERE IS ONLY A LIMITED DATA BASE UPON WHICH AID AND OTHER AGENCIES CAN DRAW IN DEVELOPING PROGRAMS AND DESIGNING PROJECTS. WE NEED A BASIC ECONOMIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL OVERVIEW OF MAURITANIA AND ITS DEVELOPMENT EFFORT FOR OUR OWN WORK AND TO BRIEF THE MULTITUDE OF TDY PROJECT DESIGNERS AND VISITING US AND MULTILATERAL TEAMS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN IN-DEPTH STUDIES OF WIDE VARIETY OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN MAURITANIA. END PRODUCT WOULD BE A PUBLICATION OF CONSIDERABLE LENGTH AND DETAIL WHICH WOULD SUBSEQUENTLY BE UPDATED ON REGULAR BASIS. USE OF THIS PUBLICATION WOULD SAVE INNUMERABLE MANHOURS OF WORK AND ASSURE CONSISTENCY IN REPORTING AS WELL AS ASSURE MORE PROFESSIONAL ANALYSES ON PART OF ALL AGENCIES. THERE WOULD BE OPPORTUNITY FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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OCCASIONAL TRAVEL AND WIDE VARIETY OF CONTACTS TO DEVELOP INFORMATION SINCE INTERN WOULD WORK DIRECTLY WITH AID, EMBASSY STAFF AND TDY CONSULTANTS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN SPECIFIC PROJECTS. AID HAS ALREADY HIRED A LOCAL STATISTICIAN TO ASSIST IN EVALUATION DATA.

4. WE WOULD BE MOST INTERESTED IN SEEING THIS PROJECT COMPLETED AND WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR EVALUATION OF THIS PROPOSED PROJECT FOR SUSAN GOLDMARK. MISS GOLDMARK IS FLUENT IN FRENCH; SHE WROTE ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WHILE A FREELANCE JOURNALIST IN BANGLADESH, INDIA AND SAUDI ARABIA AND AS A THOMAS J. WATSON FELLOW FROM 9/75-8/76 CONDUCTED AN ORAL HISTORY PROJECT ON THE BANGLADESH WAR IN PAKISTAN, INDIA AND BANGLADESH WHILE A FREELANCE JOURNALIST AND STRINGER FOR THE CHICAGO DAILY NEWS IN MIDDLE EAST. COMBINATION OF LANGUAGE CAPABILITY PLUS EXPERIENCE IN MUSLIM WORLD IN JOURNALISTIC RESEARCH AND WRITING PROVIDES ESSENTIAL BASE FROM WHICH INTERN COULD CONDUCT PROJECT IN MAURITANIA.

AS AF AWARE, MAURITANIA IS A DIFFICULT WORK ENVIRONMENT,
BUT ONE WHICH COULD PROVIDE UNIQUE, REWARDING EXPERIENCE
TO AN INTERN WITH APPROPRIATE BACKGROUND AND UNDERSTANDING.
OTHER CTES WITH SIMILAR MIX OF COMPETENCE, LANGUAGE
AND EXPERIENCE QUALIFICATIONS TO GOLDMARK WOULD, OF
COURSE, BE CONSIDERED.

5. WE WOULD PROVIDE HOUSING AND RELATED SUPPORT FOR IN-
TERN AND PROJECT COULD BE SCHEDULED TO CONFORM TO AVAILA-
BILITY OF INTERN.

6. ON THIS CONTENTION WE WOULD SEEK OUT VISITING CDO KLEIN FOR ANY
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHICH MAY BE NEEDED (KLEIN WILL
BE IN WASHINGTON FOR REMAINDER OF WEEK) AND TELEPHONE
MR. BLEIMAN TO INDICATE OUR INTEREST IN HIS COMMUNICATION
AND PROPOSAL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NOUAKC00518
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770087-0288
Format: TEL
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770362/aaaacczn.tel
Line Count: 139
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 277385, 77 STATE 9643
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3118162
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM
TAGS: AFSP, OGEN, APER, MR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e9527bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009